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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ridgetop Group, Inc. Awarded Advanced ATE Software Contract by U.S. Air Force**

**TUCSON, Ariz. — June 26, 2014**

Ridgetop Group, Inc. (“Ridgetop”) of Tucson, Arizona, announced that it has been awarded a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract from the U.S. Air Force’s Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex (WR-ALC) in Georgia. Ridgetop will deliver improved test program set (TPS) coverage for automated test equipment (ATE) used to test avionics modules deployed in military aircraft. This contract addresses the pervasive “no fault found” (NFF) problem: pilots report faulty performance from a particular module (e.g., a radar system) but when the unit is pulled from service, the unit passes the existing test suites in the service depot. The NFF occurrences lengthen the mean time to repair (MTTR) and create support problems. The funding award amount is \$750,000, extending over a two-year period.

Ridgetop’s solution involves applying advanced algorithms to address “off nominal” performance of modules caused by aging and wear-out mechanisms in the modules. Military aircraft currently in service can be over 30 years of age. Ridgetop’s algorithms are incorporated into its new software program called ETRS (Expert Troubleshooting and Repair System), which is compatible with the Air Force’s standard Versatile Depot Automatic Test Station (VDATS) test platform. This advanced software will maximize return on investment for ATE equipment.

According to Dr. Kyle Ferrio, Ridgetop’s Vice President of Advanced Research, “Ridgetop is on the cutting edge of advanced diagnostic and prognostic technologies, and it is rewarding to see the Air Force adopting our ETRS architecture, and deploying its capabilities to solve the real-world problems they have.”

Ridgetop will apply its technologies and expertise and collaborate with subcontractor ALAE, LLC to deliver solutions to the Air Force. Rich Hardwick, President of ALAE, commented, “We have built an excellent partnership with Ridgetop, and are glad to be selected to collaborate on this important Air Force contract.”

### **About Ridgetop Group, Inc.**

Since its founding in 2000, Ridgetop has designed and deployed practical test and reliability improvement solutions for critical systems. Ridgetop has expertise in advanced diagnostics and prognostics, precision instrumentation, and semiconductors for harsh environments. With over 800

installations across over 50 customer sites, Ridgetop has provided standard and semi-custom instrumentation, software, and system-level solutions to meet its customers' needs.

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